



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TREASURER ANGELIDES LAUDS PASSAGE OF HISTORIC BILL TO CUT FUEL INEFFICIENT VEHICLES FROM STATE FLEET

LANDMARK LEGISLATION SENT TO GOVERNOR'S DESK WOULD SET NEW FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS AND REDUCE TAXPAYER DOLLARS SPENT ON FLEET

SACRAMENTO, CA — The California Legislature early today passed legislation, sponsored by State Treasurer Phil Angelides, that would cut air pollution, save taxpayer dollars and reduce the State's dependence on oil by weeding out unnecessary gas guzzlers from California's fleet of 73,000 state-owned vehicles. The legislation, Senate Bill 552, now goes to Gov. Gray Davis.

"This bill helps to clean our air and save taxpayers money, which is a win-win combination," said State Treasurer Phil Angelides. "This legislation is especially important given our State's unprecedented fiscal challenges, the unpredictability of gasoline prices and the need to reduce air pollution."

SB 552, authored by state Sen. John Burton, D-San Francisco, would set landmark standards for the purchase and lease of cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles for the State's fleet. It also will implement recommendations from the California Energy Commission, the Department of General Services and the California Air Resources Board on how to make the state's existing fleet more fuel-efficient and clean. These recommendations include increased use of alternative fuels in bi-fuel vehicles, increased purchase of hybrid and other fuel-efficient vehicles, and limiting state agencies from purchasing or leasing Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) unless they can demonstrate that the vehicle is necessary to perform an essential function.

The bill, co-sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), would be among the toughest of its kind in the nation. The bill would result in substantial savings to taxpayers. For example, the Treasurer's Office estimates that if the State's purchases of SUVs were reduced by 75 percent, with less expensive passenger vehicles being purchased instead, the State would save \$14.3 million over a five-year period due to reduced purchase costs and gasoline consumption.

The Assembly passed the bill on a 43-27 vote, after the Senate passed the bill on a 25-13 vote.

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